

# The Digital Divide

A lack of digital literacy is a major barrier to full participation in our society

1 in 5 adults are not online



meaning that 1 in 5 of your community members are not able to take advantage of the benefits of a digitally literate community

Groups with the largest % of people that are not online:

38%	Low Income
46%	Disabled
57%	No High School Diploma
59%	Seniors



I'm not interested

Perceived lack of relevance is the main reason people don't go online.



# Libraries & Digital Literacy

Anchor institutions such as libraries provide Internet access and digital literacy training

“Training on how to use the internet is critical to closing the digital gap. Of the efforts on the ground, **digital literacy courses held at local public libraries were the most effective...**”

- Knight Foundation



WVLC is collaborating with teachers and public library staff to provide: (1) direct training so teachers can help students and citizens improve digital literacy skills; (2) online training in business-related software. In fact, 84.8% of WV's public libraries help people gain essential technology skills for the 21st Century workforce.



# In West Virginia

The West Virginia Library Commission, partnering with the Legislature and other agencies, is striving to help provide 21st century resources for all residents.

Maintain/support 1405 computers, high-speed Internet & WiFi in **WV public libraries, which often provide the only high-speed access available.** (Only 59% of WV homes have high-speed Internet and over 27% have no access at all.) Citizens accessed public computers in libraries over 1.4 million times in FY 2012.



WVLC is partnering with (1) WorkForce Region 2 in a trial to provide job and career training and job search services to WorkForce and DHHS clients; (2) WorkForce West Virginia to place over 120 computers for job searching and career preparation in libraries. In addition, WVLC provides Consumer Health Complete, a service providing health and wellness information, so that citizens can improve their health and make informed healthcare choices.



You can help!  
Contact your local library or the West Virginia Library Commission to find out how to do your part to build digital literacy in your community.